

Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek

EPA Region 3 EPA ID# VA5170022482

Virginia

Virginia Beach **2nd** Congressional District

Last Update: May 2002

Other Names:
Little Creek

Current Site Status

EPA and the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality continue to work with the U.S. Navy to investigate and clean up the site.

Site Description

The Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek facility is located in the Tidewater region of Virginia, near the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. The naval base is located within the city limits of Virginia Beach and consists of 2,147 acres. It is surrounded by residential, commercial, industrial, and recreational developments. On the western portion of the naval base are Little Creek Cove and Desert Cove, which empty into Little Creek Channel, and Little Creek Channel, which empties into the Chesapeake Bay. There are several lakes on or adjacent to the naval base, including Lake Bradford, Lake Chubb, Varian Lake, Little Creek Reservoir, Lake Smith Reservoir, and Lake Whitehurst. Overland drainage from the sources at the Little Creek facility flows into Little Creek Cove, Desert Cove, and the Chesapeake Bay.

The Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek grew out of four bases constructed during World War II - the Amphibious Training Base, Naval Frontier Base, and Camps Bradford and Shelton. It consisted of three annexes named for the former owners of the property-Shelton on the east, Bradford in the center, and Whitehurst to the west. A Secretary of the Navy letter in July 1945 disestablished the separate bases and established the Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek with a commissioning date of August 10, 1945. In 1946 Little Creek was designated a permanent base. Little Creek personnel provide support services to 27 homeported ships and more than 80 tenant commands. The combination of operational support and training facilities are geared predominantly to expeditionary warfare operations.

The Little Creek facility employs approximately 12,500 personnel. The population of the base increases during the summer when a significant number of midshipmen and Navy and Marine Corps reservists train in amphibious/expeditionary warfare. Some 3,650 military personnel and their families live in base housing. In addition, approximately 3,000 civilians are employed at Little Creek Facility.

Operations that have occurred at the Little Creek facility include: vehicle and boat maintenance, boat painting and sandblasting, construction and repair of buildings and piers, mixing and application of pesticides, electroplating of musical instruments, laundry and dry cleaning, medical and dental treatment, and generation of steam for heat.

Site Responsibility

Cleanup of this site is the responsibility of the federal government.


NPL Listing History

This site was proposed to the National Priorities List on July 28, 1998. The site was formally added to the list May 10, 1999.

Threats and Contaminants

The seven sources that were evaluated for NPL listing are the Naval Amphibious Base Landfill (Site 7), Driving Range Landfill (Site 9), Sewage Treatment Plant Landfill (Site 10), School of Music Plating

Shop Contaminated Soil and Debris (Site 11), School of Music Plating Shop Neutralization Tank (Site 11), Exchange Laundry Waste Disposal Area (Site 12), and the PCP Dip Tank and Wash Rack Area (Site 13). Wastes that have been generated and disposed at the Little Creek facility include: pesticides, paints, solvents, inorganics, heavy metals, polychlorinated biphenyls, mixed municipal wastes, nickel plating baths, chromic acid, silver cyanide, copper cyanide, lacquer, lacquer stripper, perchloroethylene sludge, soap, dyes, and degreasers. Contaminants migrating from the facility have impacted or might impact fisheries and sensitive environments located downgradient of the facility.

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, an arm of the CDC, web site at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html> 

Cleanup Progress

The Navy removed PCP-contaminated soils (PCP Dip Tank and Wash Rack Area) from a small area at the facility in May 1999 and removed solvent- and metals-contaminated soils at the School of Music Plating Shop in November 1995. The Navy has also covered several of the landfills with soils, as part of closure, and has implemented long-term groundwater monitoring at these sites. The Navy completed the development of a background study of soils and groundwater at the facility and has completed a Site Management Plan which outlines the scope of the problems, prioritizes the sites, and presents a schedule for actions at each site. A Remedial Investigation (RI) report for Site 12 was finalized in August 2000 and a draft RI and Feasibility Study (FS) report was submitted for Sites 9 and 10 in June 2000. A report on the Screening Ecological Risk Assessments for most of the sites was finalized in September 2000. A draft Federal Facilities Agreement (FFA) was submitted for legal review in September 2000. The FFA is a document which outlines the work required at NAB Little Creek and responsibilities of each party signing the document, the Navy, EPA and Virginia.

Contacts

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